NBA SUSPENDS SEASON AFTER UTAH JAZZ PLAYER TESTS POSITIVE »1B

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

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Coronavirus

Polis urges those at risk to avoid crowds, altitude

FRONT RANGE COLLEGES MOVE TO ONLINE CLASSES AS CASES CLIMB TO 33

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment opens the state's first drive-up community testing center for COVID-19 for patients with a doctor's order at the state lab Wednesday in Denver. *RJ Sangosti, The Denver Post*

By Jessica Seaman
The Denver Post

Confirmation that the new coronavirus is spreading in Colorado triggered a new phase of the state's response Wednesday, with Gov. Jared Polis urging those most at risk to curtail activities and colleges along the Front Range suspending classroom education.

Those actions came as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Colorado nearly doubled to 33, and the World Health Organization declared the global outbreak a pandemic.

For now, the governor is urging people over 60 and those with underlying health issues to avoid traveling to the high country as medical centers in mountain and resort towns have limited capacity to treat patients. He also encouraged those same people to eschew all large gatherings.

"It appears the virus will be disproportionately hitting our resort and mountain communities first," Polis said during a news conference Wednesday evening at the state Capitol. "It doesn't mean it will hit our resort and mountain communities exclusively."

The state health department also is working on emergency rules that will

TESTING » 8A

Coloradans adjust, from handshakes to rethinking trips

By Jon Murray *The Denver Post*

The days after Colorado public health officials confirmed the state's first cases of the new coronavirus have brought many changes to daily life — some of them big, but most of them subtle.

At a church service Sunday in Denver's uptown neighborhood, elbow bumps were encouraged instead of handshakes. Starbucks locations have stopped filling customers' personal cups and mugs, as have some neighborhood coffee shops. At some grocery stores, customers have wiped out supplies of cold medicine, cleaning products and, yes, toilet paper.

Meanwhile, at a weekend youth soccer tournament in Littleton, players who lined up for the usual postgame high-fives and handshakes with the opposing team were told instead to applaud the other side or simply tell their opponents,

ADAPTING » 9A

Aung Kyaw Toe, 51, looks at different types of rice available at the Pacific Ocean Marketplace, an Asian grocery store in Aurora, on Saturday.
Kevin Mohatt, Special to The Denver Post

Trump bans travel from Europe; trip to Colorado is off

By Lisa Mascaro, Andrew Taylor, Jill Colvin and Zeke Miller
The Associated Press

GENEVA » Taking drastic action Wednesday, President Donald Trump announced he is cutting off travel from Europe to the U.S. and moving to ease the economic cost of a viral pandemic that is roiling global financial markets and disrupting the daily lives of Americans.

During a rare Oval Office address to the nation, Trump made the announcement that he is suspending all travel from Europe to the U.S. for 30 days beginning at 11:59 p.m. Friday. After days of playing down the threat, he blamed the European Union for not acting quickly enough to address the novel coronavirus and claimed that U.S. clusters were "seeded" by European travelers.

"We made a lifesaving move with early action on China," Trump said. "Now we

OUTBREAK » 9A

Q&A: Answers to common questions about the coronavirus and what to do if you have it. »7A

Wall Street: The Dow tumbles into a bear market after its latest plunge, ending an 11-year bull market run. »10A

WAR POWERS

Congress would limit president's ability to take action against Iran

By Matthew Daly
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » Defying a veto threat, Congress has approved a bipartisan measure to limit President Donald Trump's authority to launch military operations against Iran.

The House gave final legislative approval to the measure Wednesday, 227-186, sending it to Trump. The president has promised to veto the war powers resolution, warning that if his "hands were tied, Iran would have a field day."

The resolution, sponsored by Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., declares that Trump must win approval from Congress before engaging in further military action against Iran. Kaine and other supporters say the measure is not about Trump — or even the presidency — but instead is an important reassertion of congressional power to declare war.

The resolution "sends a clear message that the American people don't want war with Iran and that Congress has not authorized war with Iran," said Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

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